

operation time period) in order to further conserve power and increase battery life. For this additional reason, Niikawa does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 maintain time calculator.

Furthermore, when Niikawa is modified by Sasaki et al., as is proposed in the Office Action, the resulting system would merely calculate the "available operation time period" until the resulting camera is disabled to avoid unstable camera operation; it would not result in a system that calculates a maintainable time in which image data is maintained in a volatile memory. As disclosed, for example, at col. 10, lines 44-51, Sasaki et al. teaches that the "buffer memory 31₆ is backed up by the battery so that even if the power source switch of the apparatus is turned off, the stored content of the buffer memory 31₆ is kept for a long period of time." However, neither Niikawa nor Sasaki et al. discloses or suggests calculating the maintainable time that image data can be maintained in such a buffer memory. Accordingly, the combination of Niikawa and Sasaki et al. does not disclose or suggest the maintain time calculator of claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 is requested.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sasaki et al. in view of Niikawa. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

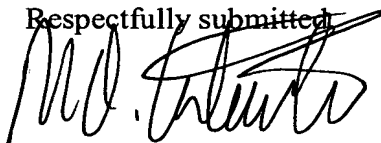
For the reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, neither Sasaki et al. nor Niikawa discloses or suggests a "maintain time calculator that calculates a maintainable time of the image data recorded in said volatile memory based on the remaining capacity of the battery detected by said detector," recited in independent claim 11. As noted above, Sasaki et al. clearly teaches maintaining image data in buffer memory 31₆ after power supply to the camera is turned off (col. 10, lines 44-51), and neither Sasaki et al. nor Niikawa discloses or suggests calculating the time that image data in such a buffer memory can be maintained based upon the voltage capacity of a power source.

Accordingly, independent claim 11 is patentable over the combination of Sasaki et al. and Niikawa. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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